

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037498
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037498

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE PROGRAMS

REFS: A) PARIS 02507; B) STATE 20041

1. IN VIEW APPOINTMENT OF VAN BOVEN (NETHERLANDS) AS
DIRECTOR OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION, QUESTION OF SUPPORT
FOR VASAK'S CANDIDATE, KEBA M'BAYE (PARA 7, REF A), WOULD
APPEAR TO BE MOOT. MOREOVER, DEPT. UNDERSTANDS THAT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SANON, WHO HAS ONLY BEEN IN JOB SIX
MONTHS, IS HIGHLY REGARDED AND MOST UNLIKELY TO BE VACATING
POST IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

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2. AS PERM DEL INFORMED BY TELEPHONE FEBRUARY 15,
DR. BUERGENTHAL IS DINING WITH VASAK FEBRUARY 18 AND HOPES
TO GET UPDATE ON LATTER'S THINKING CONCERNING TIMING OF
CONVENING OF GROUP OF "WISEMEN" TO STUDY AND APPROVE
PRELIMINARY DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE
(PARA 4, REF A). IN VIEW U. S. LEADERSHIP IN FIELD OF
RACE RELATIONS, WE AGREE WITH PERM DEL THAT A HIGHLY

QUALIFIED AMERICAN ACTING IN HIS PRIVATE CAPACITY, SHOULD BE INCLUDED, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT U. S. PARTICIPATES IN DRAFTING EXERCISE. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO VASAK THAT OUR PRESENT POSITION REMAINS ONE OF NON-PARTICIPATION. (FYI: THIS QUESTION IS SUBJECT TO RE-EXAMINATION IN CONNECTION WITH A BROAD REVIEW OF U. S. POLICY TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN UN DECADE AGAINST RACISM. END FYI.)

3. IN VIEW UNCERTAINTY REGARDING U. S. ROLE IN DRAFTING RACIAL DECLARATION, DEPT. WOULD PREFER NOT TO COMMENT AT THIS TIME ON QUESTION OF LOCUS OF MEETING OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS. MOREOVER, AS PERM DEL SUGGESTS, IT WOULD SEEM POINTLESS TO SPECULATE NOW ON WHAT WOULD BE BEST CHOICE FOR A MEETING TO BE HELD MONTHS LATER, GIVEN DYNAMICS OF FACTORS INVOLVED.
HARTMAN

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